

DILLSBURG BANNER



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Twenty-five Cents

Parents attend class on "Spiritual Warfare"

by Mary Lou Bytof

Can parents and teachers identify youngsters who may be either dabbling in the occult and/or practicing satanic rituals?

The answer is "yes", according to Mike True, the creator of a course entitled "Spiritual Warfare."

On Monday, evening in Northern High School, True addressed a group of approximately 70 parents. True had spoken to Northern teachers at an in-service program several weeks ago.

He recognized that the large turnout was probably due to the teenage vigilante incident of last month. The teens, armed with guns and homemade bombs, had set out to ambush an alleged satanic ritual.

The Dillsburg Police Department took the teens into custody. No sign of a ritual was discovered that evening.

After giving a chilling historical background on satanism from ancient to modern times, True proceeded to explain the characteristics of teens who may be dabbling in the evil rituals.

"Tell your children that you will enter their bedrooms," True emphasized. "Don't wait until it is too late, he warned."

Although the following items and behaviors are common to satanists and dabblers in the occult, True warned parents not to panic if only a single isolated factor is present. For example, the popular peace symbol of the 70's is coming back, he said. But satanists use it to mean turmoil, he explained.

"Satanism is a religion that is antithetical to Christianity," True said. And its practitioners pervert the symbols of Christianity. Other satanic symbols include the pentagram, swastika, and circles, he said. These and other symbols may be displayed on the body, especially on the hand, on clothing, in writing, and on room decor, he said. True asked parents to watch for a Book of Shadows, which he said is "a notebook in which they write down rituals, violent song lyrics, satanic symbols and suicide

notes." It usually has a black cover, he added.

Black clothing may be either a teenage fad or a satanic symbol. Again, True warned about isolated factors.

If in addition to wearing black, a male teen replaces posters of race cars and bikini-clad girls with pictures of demons, heavy metal rock groups, and sculptures of skulls and bones, a parent should be suspicious, he said.

Cults lure naive teens with drugs and sex, he said. Remember, Satanism has no rules or restrictions, he told the parents.

"Drugs are almost always included in Satanism," True emphasized.

Along with drug use comes a drop in grades, an angry and aggressive personality, rebellion, and destruction, he said. The youngsters, often an intelligent underachiever who is bored with life, pulls away from family and activities. He associates with the "wrong crowd" and is withdrawn, he concluded.

Those who are heavily into satanism may use a code language—often an obsolete language, morse code, or even Braille. "Remember, they don't want you to know what is going on," he explained. Some even take on satanic names. They listen to heavy metal rock music with violent lyrics. Some may have self-inflicted cuts on their arms and hands. They may mutilate animals, he added.

"If they are involved in animal sacrifice, I fear for them," he exclaimed. "It means they'll become desensitized to violence."

"Satanism involves the destruction of all forms of innocence and authority," True said.

The following, according to True, are some reasons why teens become involved with the occult:

- Thirst for power and secret knowledge
- Curiosity
- Peer pressure and need for acceptance
- Rebellion
- Hopelessness



Photo by David March

A bike hike to raise money for MS was held last Sunday. Approximately 75-100 bikers rode the ten mile trek through the Dillsburg countryside. The bike hike was sponsored by the Dillsburg Lions.

These teens often come from dysfunctional families, he said. There may be drug abuse, alcoholism, and a long-standing lack of communication, he said.

"If children have never been able to express their joys and fears with their parents and siblings," True said, "they will do it elsewhere."

"I'm a firm believer that what you put into your minds... will come out," he said.

Slasher movies desensitize children to violence, he warned. Fantasy games, in the wrong hands, are also a problem, he said. The fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons' manual includes wording almost directly from occult books, he said.

Involvement in satanism is "a multifaceted, multidimensional problem," True said. It is a disease of the spirit, the soul, and the body, he said.

To help a youngster who may be dabbling in satanism, a parent first must stop pretending that it

does not exist.

"If you see a number of things recurring, check it out. Investigate rumors and notify the police," he added.

Keep the lines of communication open, he urged. Talk with your teen's teachers. What does he or she write about in English class? What does he or she create in art class?

"Lastly—and most importantly—if you have faith in God, you need to pray," True concluded.

Mike True is the assistant to the president at the Evangelical School of Technology in Meyersstown. He is a 1979 graduate of the Lancaster Bible College, and holds a master of divinity degree.

In his younger years, he had experimented in the occult via telepathy and out-of-body experiences.

The program was sponsored by the Northern Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

High school board report

Melissa Nead had her advertisement for Graphic Outfitters published March 26, 1990, in the Patriot News edition for NIE week. Melissa is an art student at the High School.

The girls' varsity basketball won their first game in the PIAA sponsored post season tournament. They lost their second game. At the PIAA Sectional Wrestling Tournament in the AAA Division, the following boys were recognized: First place—Jerry Sterner and Chris Bentley, second place—Dave Habowski, third place—Brian Baxter, fourth place—Jamie LeHarris.

Gretchen Klaus was named to the Girls' Basketball first team All-Stars for Division III of the Mid-Penn Conference.

Jerry Sterner was named to the first team Wrestling All-Stars for Division I of the Mid-Penn Conference. Jocelyn Lake, a senior student at the High School, has been named as a foreign exchange student by the Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program. Jocelyn will be going to Belgium. This is a very competitive foreign exchange program.

The guidance office has announced Sarah Hager and Jared Kreefer as Rotary students of the month.

On Friday, March 16, 1990, the Business Department entered a team of ten students in the Hagerstown Business College competition, competing with over 150 students from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Northern's team won first place. Seven individual students were recognized as follows: First place—Jeff Laughman, second place—Julie Stoner, Angie Crisamore, Kim Greenfield and Tina Morgan, third place—Gretchen Gannan.

Two Business students, Chris Leister and Tina Morgan, were awarded third place at the Business Skills Olympic XI held at Yorktown Business Institute.

Charlotte Thomas, a junior Business student was selected as Business Student of the month by the business staff.

The State DECA Conference was held on March 7, 8, and 9, 1990, at Seven Springs. Three students were recognized as follows: First place—Levi Malkowicz, third place—Heather Alland and Kim Moyer.

Three Northern students competed in the Senior Division of the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair. Valore Sebestyen won a second place award. Gideon Litoff merited a first place award in the Computer Science Division. Gideon was one of five students considered for the Grand Champion Award. Gideon was named as an alternate to the International Science and Engineering Fair. Incidentally, the winning project was entitled "The Role of Sympathetic Pathways Involved in Neural Modulation of the Immune System."

Four High School students represented Northern at the annual mathematics competition sponsored by Shippensburg University. The four students representing Northern were Karl Knaub, Mike Knox, Ragnar Konemann, and Gideon Litoff. Students from 24 area high schools competed for both team and individual honors. Northern's team placed first. On an individual basis Karl and Gideon tied for first place, each with a score of 35 correct out of a possible 40 questions. The next best score in the competition was 29 out of a possible 40. These are very talented young men. Each will receive a trophy and \$100.00.

The Basketball awards program was held on March 5, 1990. A full house recognized both the boys and girls basketball programs.

Mike Norris, Cumberland County Coroner, presented an assembly program to our Driver Education classes on Wednesday, March 7, 1990.

Twenty-eight Northern students representing a Senior American Government class competed at Dickinson College in a contest testing their knowledge of American Government. These students represented Northern in commendable fashion, however, they did not place. Miss Golden, their faculty sponsor, indicated that students experienced a very positive day.

On Tuesday, March 20, 1990, the annual Wrestling Award Banquet was held in the High School cafeteria with approximately 250 people in attendance.

The School Musical entitled "Once Upon a Mattress" was held on March 22, 23, 24. The cast and staff should be commended for presenting an enjoyable, entertaining show.



Photo by Mark Ryder

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS - Winners of the Uni Market's Easter coloring contest were Sara Fred, first place; Chris Lau, second; and Chris Trump, third. All who entered received a free fountain soda.